

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 646

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 646 pertains to highway demonstration projects. The bill, as amended, would limit the number of demonstration projects to not more than one project per year. In addition, only one project could be initiated in any calendar year and could not exceed 15 miles in length.

Background

The bill, as introduced, was proposed and supported by the Secretary of Transportation, E. Dean Carlson. The Secretary explained that the proposed technique would save time in opening a project to traffic and that this savings translates into less inconvenience to travelers and increased safety because highway work zones would be in place for shorter durations. Also appearing in support of the original bill was George Barbee, Kansas Consulting Engineers.

Conferees who appeared in opposition included Bob Totten, Kansas Contractors Association; Jamie Green, The Heavy Constructors Association of the Greater Kansas City Area; and Corky Beachner, President, Beachner Construction Company, St. Paul, Kansas. These conferees expressed concerns that the proposal would circumvent the current bid system procedures. Don Beuerlein, President, Koss Construction Company, Topeka, said he would reserve his opinion on the proposal until more facts were available.

The Senate Committee amendment, as described in the brief, was the product of conferees who met to resolve their differences on the bill.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>